



Welaka Gazette

August 2021

From The Mayor's Desk

I hope everyone in Welaka is enjoying their summer and all the great activities that come with this time of the year. We are continuing to work hard at Town Hall to bring many areas of your Town government up to date. I am pleased to say we are making significant headway with updating our ordinances. Councilwoman Milledge has completed her draft of our new Noise Ordinance with the assistance of our Town attorney and our Chief of Police. We will be holding a special called meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 5:30 PM to allow the public an opportunity to give their input about the new ordinance to the Welaka Town Council.

Councilwoman Long is continuing to work on our Park's Ordinance, and we expect a draft to that in a few weeks. Council President Finch is continuing her efforts to update our Golf Cart Ordinance, and Councilwoman Washington has started her review of our Alcohol Ordinance.

I am also excited to announce three new boards in the Town: the Charter Review Committee, who will be working with me to update our Town Charter. The Citizens Advisory Board will be getting input from the residents on what they would like to see worked on in the Town and creating a priority list of important projects such as roads. We also have a new Events Committee who will be working with our Town Clerk Rhonda Walsh, who will be planning events in the Town such as our Christmas Parade, Springfest, and even new events like art walks and craft festivals. Besides the new boards we have created, we are also appointing new members to our Codes Enforcement Board and our Planning and Zoning Board. At the same special meeting on August 5th at 5:30, we will confirm the new board members. Speaking of Planning and Zoning, I am also working with our Town Attorney to create a better process to handle Planning and Zoning Issues to ensure we do not outgrow our small town charm.

I am also excited to announce a recent grant I was able to secure for \$22,500 that will allow us, with the help of the North Florida Regional Council, to update the Town of Welaka's Comprehensive Plan, which guides the Town's approach to growth management. The plan articulates the community's vision as to what its citizens want it to become in the future. It identifies the community's goals to reach as it grows and is a document that will guide policy decisions about growth and change.

Besides all these, I am continuing to work with the Town Council to create a Municipal Codebook. As you are probably aware, the Town has numerous ordinances but not a straightforward way to organize and reference those ordinances. What I am proposing to do is what is done in other cities, that is to create a codebook with sections so a resident can

quickly turn to a specific section and find an answer. We will even place that codebook online to allow our residents the ability to access it anywhere. I will be going over a proposal with the Welaka Town Council at our meeting on August 10th. I encourage you to participate in that meeting.

On a grant level, we recently applied for and are expected to receive American Rescue Plan funding that will help us recover some of the shortfalls we felt from the COVID-19 Pandemic and improve some infrastructure. I am also working with other municipal leaders in surrounding areas, such as the Mayor of Green Cove Springs and City Council Members in Jacksonville Beach, to locate grants and funds that we can use to improve the Town and, ultimately, the lives of all our residences. Having these strong partnerships with our sister cities right here in Putnam County and across the state is absolutely necessary to improve our Town and strengthen our community.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support of me as Mayor; please know that I am working hard to improve our city, and as long as I am Mayor, I will continue to protect Welaka and preserve our small-town charms. I hope you continue to have a safe and happy summer, and I will talk to you again next month.

Best Regards,
Mayor Jamie D. Watts

Contact Your Welaka Town Council Members

We are pleased to announce that we have created a way for you to contact your Welaka Town Council Members by Phone and by email to express any issues or concerns you might have.

By Phone

To Reach Mayor Watts call (386) 467-9800 and press options 6

To Reach A Welaka Town Council Member call (386) 467-9800 and press options 7

By Email

Mayor Jamie D. Watts: jwatts@welaka-fl.gov

Council President Jessica Finch: jfinch@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Marianne Milledge: mmilledge@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Tonya Long: tonyalong@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Kathy Washington: kwashington@welaka-fl.gov

Appointment of Town Boards and Committees

We are pleased to announce three new boards: the Charter Review Committee, Citizens Advisory Board, and Events Committee. We will also be adding new members to our Codes Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Boards. Each Welaka Town Council Member will appoint one member to each board, and they will be confirmed at a special Town of Welaka Council Meeting on August 5, 2021, at 5:30 PM.

Welaka Blood Drive

The Blood Drive was a great success!! We had 15 registered donors, collected 14 donations, had 1 deferral and 2 first time donors. Our next scheduled blood drive is Thursday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Back To School Drive

The back-to-school drive on July 24 was a smashing success. We had 66 local children receive backpacks and school supplies to help them get ready to go back to school. It was a great day with food and games, and the Welaka Fire Department even stopped by and set up a water sprayer to allow the kids to cool off from the summer heat. We would like to thank Helping Hands of Welaka and all the sponsors who donated generously to make this event such a great success.

Monthly Town Meetings

All meetings are at Welaka Town Hall

Located at 400 4th Ave. Welaka, Fl. 32193

August 10, 2021

Zoning Board Meeting 5:30 PM

Code Enforcement Meeting 5:45 PM

Town Council Meeting 6:30 PM

All three will be live streamed on our Town of Welaka Facebook Page and on our YouTube Channel

August Meter Reading

Will be reading water meters August 16th. If you have any issues with your water or sewer remember the Town Utility Department is available 24 hours a day at (386) 467-8677 or TDD (800) 955-8771. We ask you to please do your part in conserving water.

Garbage Pickup

Garbage and Recycling pick up will be August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. Yard debris pick up will be August 9th and the 23rd. Please remember to call Waste Pro at (386) 328-5445 if you have any issues with your garbage, yard debris or recycling pick up.

Pay Your Water Bill Online

You can now pay your water bill online using our Online Utility Bill pay system. To get started go to www.welakawater.com and create your account. In your account you can track your monthly water usage and even set up your account for auto pay so you never have to worry about a late charge again. If you need assistance setting up your account online please call our Utility Department at (386) 467-9800 option 4. You can also drop your payment by Town Hall anytime using our Utility Payment drop box located to the right of the front door of Town Hall.

August's Recognitions and Proclamations

Town of Welaka Proclamation -

- Proclamation No. 2021-04: A Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency

Town of Welaka Resolution -

- Resolution No. 2021-06 - Establish a Charter Review Committee
- Resolution No. 2021-07 - Establish a Community Advisory Committee
- Resolution No. 2021-08 - Establish a Community Events Committee

If you would like to recognize a Town of Welaka resident for dedicated community service to our Town, a local student with exceptional grades, or to nominate a Town resident who is celebrating a landmarked birthday such as turning 100 years old, please contact our Town Clerk Jennifer McDaniel at (386) 467-9800 or by email at jennifermcdaniel@welaka-fl.gov. We will be happy to recognize them at our next Council Meeting by public recognition.

Food Drive

Helping Hands of Welaka will be hosting a food giveaway at Welaka Town Hall 400 4th Ave. Welaka, Fl. 32193 on August 12, 2021, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 PM. They ask you to please pull up, stay in your car, pop your trunk, and they will load your groceries.

Important Information from the Welaka Tree Board:

The Welaka Tree Board is searching for Heritage Oak Trees to silver tag so they are able to keep up with their locations. The reason for this is because the trees are protected as per Ordinance 2015-1. The Heritage Oak is an outstanding, vigorous cross between Quercus Robur (English Oak) and Quercus Macrocarpa (Bur Oak). It has glossy, dark green, tatter and mildew resistant foliage. It makes a fantastic specimen tree in larger landscapes. Mature growth is around 60-80' tall x 40-50' wide. Hardiness Zone 4. This oak tree will produce acorns.

Ordinance 2015-1

Trees provide a setting with a variety of colors unsurpassed in shade and hue, and trees are an invaluable psychological counterpart to the man-made urban setting. Trees absorb a high percentage of carbon dioxide and return oxygen, a vital ingredient to life. Trees are a valuable asset that can affect an area economically. The Town Council of the Town of Welaka has determined that the protection of trees on public and private property within the Town of Welaka is not only desirable but essential to the present and future health, safety and welfare of all citizens. The Town of Welaka recognizes that trees on public and private property are valuable contributors to the Town's environment

Heritage Trees are 7 feet 10 inches in measurement around the tree which is measured 4 ½ feet from the ground level. Many of the Heritage trees on public property have been tagged and we need to tag the ones on private property and with your help we can. If you believe you may have a Heritage Tree on your property or have any questions concerning the ordinance please email Councilwoman Marianne Milledge at mmilledge@welaka-fl.gov or contact Town Hall at 386-467-9800. We want to preserve these magnificent old trees as they are our living history and link to the past.

Thank You for your help and support.

Welaka Tree Board

- Councilwoman - Marianne Milledge
- Chairman - John Stuart
- Lauri Porath
- Erin Jeltis
- Janice Brown Stallings
- Pauline Kinney



“Welaka Mineral Springs”



Welaka Mineral Springs is a very important stop on the Bartram Trail and was visited by famed naturalist William Bartram and his father, John Bartram, in the 18th century.

In boring an artesian well, Welaka struck a spring or flow of medicinal water that a chemist in Boston stated “is a saline laxative and is a first-class water for stomach troubles and rheumatism.” Also, the chemist said the water would have the same effect as that found in Blue Lick Springs in Kentucky and Kochbrumen in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Welaka Mineral Spring is a third-magnitude spring with a pool about 90 feet long from east to west and 60 feet wide from north to south. The spring vent is about 20 feet in diameter in the clayey-sand bottom of the central part of the pool, with a prominent boil over the vent. The water from the spring is clear, but the spring water mixes with dark water from the St. Johns River a short distance downstream. The spring pool opens on its southwest side to a run about 200 feet wide that curves to the southwest, then to the northwest for about 1,200 feet to the St. Johns River. Backwater from the St. Johns River, at least in part associated with tidal effects, frequently makes it impracticable to measure the spring discharge. Faults Miller (1986, 1982c) mapped several faults on the top of the Floridan aquifer system in the study. They occur along the St. Johns River and Doctors Lake in Clay County, in central St. Johns County, along the St. Johns River in southern Putnam County, and along the St. Johns River in western and southern Volusia County and northern Seminole County. Wadesboro Spring, Green Cove Spring, Satsuma Spring, Welaka Spring, Mud Spring, and Beecher Springs occur on or near these faults. The faults may partially be responsible for the occurrence of the above springs.

Water Quality and Isotope Concentrations: Part 2

Table 2. Physical and chemical parameters for water from springs sampled in this study

Site No.	Site Name	Sample Collection Date	Water Temperature (°C)	Discharge (date) (cfs)	Specific Conductance (lab) (µmhos/cm)	pH (mg/L)	Dissolved Oxygen	Alk-lab CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	Ca-D (mg/L)	Mg-D (mg/L)	Na-D (mg/L)	K-D (mg/L)	Sr-D (µg/L)	Fe-D (µg/L)	Cl (mg/L)	F (mg/L)	SO ₄ (mg/L)
1	Fern Hammock Springs	1/16/2001	21.35	10.2	116	8.16	5.72	45	13	4.9	3	0.3T	103	2.4T	5	0.07	8
2	Clifton Springs	1/17/2001	22.80	1.2	581	7.14	1.33	112	43	13.8	59	2.4	429	7.2T	109	0.18	36
3	Green Springs	1/17/2001	18.16	0.0	1,340	6.87	0.96	163	71	22.6	183	6.7	1,042	6.0T	321	0.08	51
4	Miami Springs	1/18/2001	24.12	4.2	267	7.11	0.62	115	36	9.6	6	0.9T	188	8.1T	10	0.15	10
5	Green Cove Spring	3/15/2001	25.06	2.7	293	7.59	0.15	81	28	15.3	4	1.5	1,251	1.0T	6	0.27	57
6	Apopka Spring	3/21/2001	22.68	24.8	239	7.30	2.46	73	30	8.1	5	1.0	61	2.5T	11	0.07	10
7	Island Spring	3/22/2001	23.61	7.4	5,350	6.75	0.63	128	195	91.8	789	21.4	4,765	1.5T	1,520	0.23	409
8	Bugg Spring	4/9/2001	23.26	6.9	285	7.30	2.11	119	48	3.2	6	1.2	62	3.1T	10	0.06	10
9	Orange Spring	4/10/2001	24.10	2.4 0.9	271	7.39	0.33	127	7	6.7	4	2.0	66	36.8T	6	0.15	10
10	Wadesboro Spring	4/11/2001	22.78	(4/12/01)	351	6.52	0.22	125	46	8.9	10	1.1	205	463	17	0.18	22
11	Welaka Spring	4/12/2001	23.15	7.9	1,047	7.11	0.26	79	39	17.8	140	4.5	557	5.2T	260	0.13	41
12	Welaka Spring (duplicate)	4/12/2001	23.15	7.9	1,056	7.11	0.26	79	39	17.6	139	4.4	550	2.0T	259	0.13	42
13	Beecher Springs	5/7/2001	22.93	7.3	391	6.96	0.29	100	35	7.5	28	1.3	170	40.7T	51	0.14	10
14	Silver Springs	5/8/2001	23.23	396.0	448	6.65	1.26	189	74	9.1	6	0.5T	466	0.8T	10	0.21	28
15	Silver Springs (duplicate)	5/8/2001	23.23	396.0 0.9	447	6.65	1.26	189	74	9.2	6	0.5T	477	2.2T	10	0.21	28
16	Satsuma Spring	5/9/2001	24.49	(5/7/01) 0.9	4,660	7.03	0.55	95	102	73.4	691	23.5	2,408	2.2T	1,366	0.34	213
17	Mud Spring	5/10/2001	22.52	(5/8/01)	1,010	7.27	0.36	83	37	16.8	125	4.1	570	0.6T	238	0.16	39
18	Blue Springs at Yalaha	5/14/2001	23.80	1.6	272	7.19	3.52	98	40	6.2	6	0.7T	68	5.4T	10	0.10	10
19	Holiday Springs	5/14/2001	23.90	0.9	293	7.08	1.11	106	43	6.7	6	0.7T	68	3.0T	12	0.11	10

Note: cfs = cubic feet per second
 mg/L = milligrams per liter
 µg/L = micrograms per liter
 µmhos/cm = microohms per centimeter

T signifies that value reported is less than the laboratory method detection limit

August 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Waste Pro					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Waste Pro	Town of Welaka monthly meetings Zoning – 5:30 p.m. Code – 5:45 p.m. Council – 6:30 p.m.				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Waste Pro					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Recycle Waste Pro					
29	30	31				
	Waste Pro					